

# 2026 FAMILY CAMP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Family Camp at Camp Frank S. Betz is a camping and program experience designed for Tiger through Arrow of Light (1st through 5th grade) Cub Scouts and their siblings, aged 5 through 15 years old.

Younger Lion (Kindergarten) Cub Scouts, siblings aged 16 and older, and parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to participate in the program. However, some activities may have age limits due to their appropriateness. (See the [Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#)).

Our theme this year is **BETZ 250!** This racing-themed weekend will have Cub Scouts and their families racing through a weekend packed with outdoor challenges, themed adventures, and all the classic camp fun you love. We are all excited to exhibit this theme over the weekend.



## WHAT TO EXPECT

### Camp Open and Close

Camp Betz runs on **“Chicago Time” (Central Time), NOT “Michigan Time” (Eastern Time)!** Camp opens at 4:00 PM (CST) on Friday, and camp will close at 10:30 AM (CST)

### Arrival and Check In

Upon arrival, volunteers will direct you to the designated parking area. Please leave your gear in your car and follow the signs to check in at Pine Tree Cabin.

During check-in, you will be required to present your completed medical forms. **EACH PERSON PARTICIPATING** (Including ALL Adults) will need to bring a completed BSA [Annual Health and Medical Record parts A, B1, B2](#), which includes a copy of the front and back of your insurance card.

You will also receive your camp t-shirt and patch. Families will be assigned a color group for the program and campsite location. We will do our best to keep members of a unit together, but understand that we may need to split some Packs due to size limitations. Each campsite has a predetermined capacity; depending on your group's size, we may need to divide your group. All campsites have power available.

Helpful volunteers and signage will be available throughout the camp to help direct you to your site. Wheelbarrows are provided near the parking lot to assist with moving your gear from your car to your campsite. Please return them when you are done so others can use them!

### Friday Evening

We will have all attendees gather at Gillwell Field to receive their color group's flag and for a camp safety and orientation presentation.

Dinner will not be provided on Friday night. Please eat dinner before arrival, or you may bring supplies to cook in your campsite. Several restaurants/fast food locations are only minutes from camp in Berrien Springs, MI.

We show a movie at the Handicraft Shelter and provide lemonade and popcorn. Our Trading Post will also be open!

## Saturday Program

On Saturday, your color group will move together between six different activity areas during the day. You are expected to stay with your group, engage and work with your scouts/youth. For security and safety reasons, we kindly request that you refrain from venturing off on your own to explore the camp.

### Program Area Overviews

#### Range & Target – BB Guns

Our qualified instructors teach the Scouts the safe use of a BB gun and help them hit the target. For our Scouts who are too young for BB Guns, we have a slingshot area that is for all ages.



#### Range & Target – Archery

Our qualified instructors teach our Scouts how to aim and shoot a bow safely at a target. We offer bows for a variety of ages, allowing all Scouts to participate.

#### Handicraft & Gaga Ball

At the Handicraft shelter near The Thunderbird Dining Hall, Scouts and siblings complete a themed wood craft before moving on to play the Cub Scouts' favorite game, Gaga Ball.



#### Leatherwork & Staves

If you have been to Family Camp before, don't forget to bring your hiking stave with you! First-time attendees will receive a stave to get branded with this year's design. Scouts will stamp a leather round to hang from their stave.



#### Waterfront

Cub Scouts and their families will have an opportunity to cool off in Lake Chapin, learn about water safety and have a little fun.



#### Boating

Families will put on lifejackets, get into their pontoon-canoes and take to Lake Chapin for a leisurely paddle.

## Saturday Evening

After dinner, we conclude with our closing flags and our Campfire Program. Along with skits from the volunteer staff, each color group is asked to share a song or skit for the camp. This is a great way for the older Cub Scouts to show their leadership!

## REQUIREMENTS

**Hard sole foot protection is mandatory to participate in all waterfront activities!**

This must be in the form of water shoes, closed-toe sandals, or tennis shoes; it must be something that can be worn in the water and not easily fall off.

Flip flops and Crocs (even in sport mode) **ARE NOT** acceptable to fulfill this mandate. Our waterfront staff reserves the right to decide whether footwear is acceptable. The use of the waterfront could be revoked if proper footwear is not approved.

**Medical forms are mandatory for all attendees, including Scouts, adults, and siblings.**

You will not be able to check in without your medical form(s). If you registered as a pack (one registration for all Pack members) **and** collected health forms for all participants in your unit, please ensure that a designated Pack Leader is the first person in your group to arrive. If that Pack Leader cannot arrive before or with the others, please have each family bring their health forms with them.

Please be sure to note any special needs you may have in your registration (please fill in the "Dietary Restrictions" and "Medical Needs" fields per participant during registration).

## DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

It is **essential** that you note your allergies and dietary restrictions during registration so our staff can Be Prepared to meet your needs. If you have questions, please contact the Camp Directors at [PTAC.Betz.FamilyCamp@gmail.com](mailto:PTAC.Betz.FamilyCamp@gmail.com) at least a week before your session, so we can provide you with answers and update our staff accordingly.

Since the menu changes weekly, we cannot provide a menu until the week before your session.

## TRADING POST

The Trading Post is your one-stop shop for Camp Betz apparel, camping supplies, knives, ice cream, candy, pop, commonly forgotten items, and others. The Trading Post is located at the Handicraft Pavillion near the Thunderbird Dining Hall. The Trading Post will accept **cash** and **credit cards!**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

*Camp runs on CST or "Chicago" Time*

### FRIDAY NIGHT

4:00 PM Camp Opens  
4:30 PM Check-In Begins  
4:30 - 7:00 PM Check-In and Campsite setup  
7:00 PM Flags & Camp Safety and Orientation  
8:00 PM Evening Movie & Snack  
10:00 PM Quiet Time  
11:00 PM Lights Out

### SATURDAY

6:30 – 8:30 AM Late Check-In  
7:15 AM Opening Flags  
7:45 AM Breakfast  
8:45 AM Morning Session Rotation  
11:50 AM Lunch  
2:00 PM Afternoon Session Rotation  
6:00 PM Dinner  
7:30 PM Closing Flags  
8:00 PM Campfire Program  
8:45 PM Early Check-Out  
9:00 PM Campsite Time (Treats!)  
10:00 PM Quiet Time

### 11:00 PM Lights Out

### SUNDAY MORNING

7:30 AM Opening Flags  
8:00 AM Breakfast  
TBD Following Breakfast -Scout Vespers  
9:00 AM Pack up & Clean Campsites  
10:30 AM Camp Close

## PACKING LIST

WHAT TO BRING		WHAT NOT TO BRING
PER PERSON	PER FAMILY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Part A &amp; B Medical Form with insurance card.</li><li>Sleeping Bag and pillow</li><li>Sleeping Pad or cot (for comfort)</li><li>Towel</li><li>Clothes (for three days)</li><li>Scout field uniform (Scouts and registered adults)</li><li>Swimwear (including REQUIRED swim shoes)</li><li>Extra socks</li><li>Rain gear (Just in case of any Liquid Sunshine!)</li><li>Camp chair</li><li>Hat</li><li>Reusable water bottle</li><li>Flashlight</li><li>Staves (for returning campers)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A tent for the whole family</li><li>Bug Spray</li><li>Sunscreen</li><li>Daypack to carry stuff during the day</li><li>Cash for the Trading Post</li><li>Campfire Forks (or prongs) for Sat Night "Treat"</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alcoholic drinks</li><li>Illicit/illegal drugs</li><li>Firearms, Bows, Crossbows, Arrows, Slingshots, or Sheath Knives</li><li>Fireworks of any kind</li><li>Pets of any kind</li><li>Gas Generators</li><li>Loud Radios</li></ul>

## WHAT ARE NICE TO HAVES AT FAMILY CAMP

- Folding wagon to help haul gear to/from your campsite (Betz provides wheelbarrows, but sometimes they are all in use)
- Battery-powered fan for inside your tent or to carry with you
- Battery charger for your phone or other devices
- Small cooler for extra water and snacks
- Power strip or extension cord to share power in the campsite
- Shower shoes, soap, shampoo, and a washcloth if you plan to take a shower
- Travel mug for your morning coffee (Available in Thunderbird starting at 6 AM!)
- Earplugs if you are a light sleeper

## HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

For updates and camp information, please like our Camp Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CampBetz>

For updates and Family Camp-specific information, please join our Family Camp Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/303664541454207>

We will offer an *Introduction to Family Camp* webinar in May for all new and returning families to learn more about the exciting things happening at Family Camp this year.

If you have any questions, please contact us via the shared email, or our phone numbers listed below:  
[PTAC.Betz.FamilyCamp@gmail.com](mailto:PTAC.Betz.FamilyCamp@gmail.com)

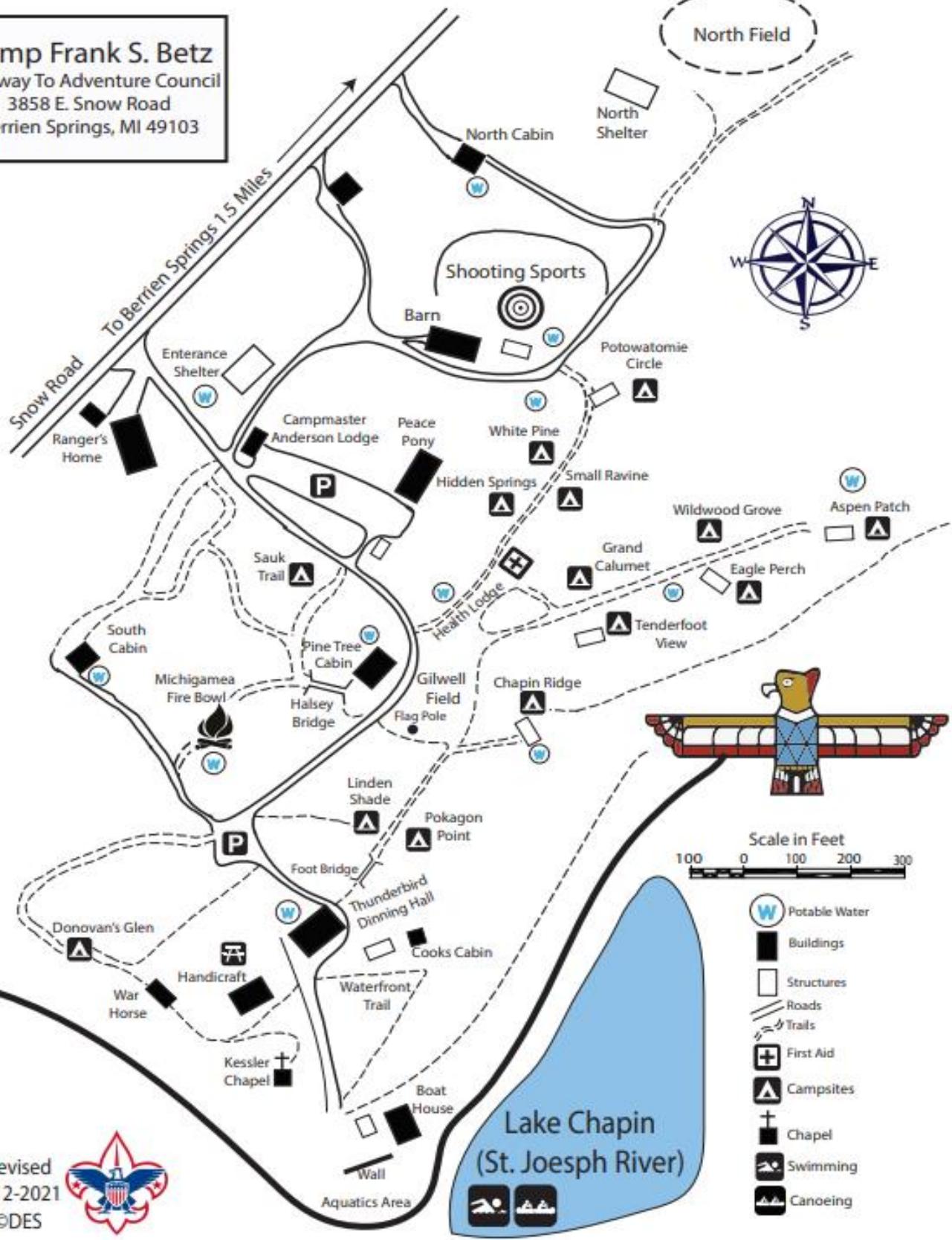
**Kevin Ranos**  
Family Camp Admin Director  
773-968-6274

**Sean McQuaid**  
Family Camp Program Co-Director  
708-466-8559

**Dalton Devries**  
PTAC Camping Director  
[Dalton.DeVries@scouting.org](mailto:Dalton.DeVries@scouting.org)

**Kathy Daloia**  
Registration and Payment Assistance  
[katherine.daloia@scouting.org](mailto:katherine.daloia@scouting.org)  
630-796-4262 ext. 238

**Camp Frank S. Betz**  
 Pathway To Adventure Council  
 3858 E. Snow Road  
 Berrien Springs, MI 49103



Revised  
 9-12-2021  
 ©DES

Last Update 12/12/2026